



**H.Res. 32 - Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.**

### **Floor Situation**

H.Res. 32 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on January 5, 2007, and was reported by unanimous consent from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.Res. 32 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 9, 2007.

### **Background**

In many parts of the world, women are victims of human rights violations. These violations include genital mutilation, trafficking, rape, murder, and disfigurement.

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979. CEDAW defines discrimination against women as, "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

The United States has not ratified CEDAW. Currently, 183 countries have ratified CEDAW.

### **Summary**

H.Res. 32 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Denounces the barbaric practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, 'honor' killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions;
- Demands the cessation of these barbaric practices; and
- Condemns the perpetrators of these barbaric practices; and

It is the sense of the House of Representatives that--

- Participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society;
- Regardless of religion, geography, or form of government, women should not be denied equal rights, which should be defended when they are abridged, challenged, or violated; and
- The United States should renew consideration of and ratify its signature on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

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